

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An optical fiber comprising:
a core doped with active species,
an inner cladding surrounding the core,
an outer cladding surrounding the inner cladding,
wherein the cross-sectional shape of said inner cladding is an asymmetric
and symmetry-broken polygon that destabilizes local modes of light beams ~~within~~ with said
inner cladding, ~~and wherein~~
the improvement comprising:
at least one boundary of the boundaries forming said symmetry-broken polygon
shape is an arc.

2. (currently amended) An article for gain applications comprising
at least one laser diode array; for outputting a beam having fast and slow
axis divergence;
a double cladding laser fiber with its core doped with active species, said
double cladding laser fiber ~~has~~ having an aperture, an inner cladding, and an outer cladding;
a coupling optical system, ~~wherein said coupling optical system is~~
disposed between said ~~diode~~ laser diode array and the aperture of said ~~fiber and focuses~~ double
cladding laser fiber, the coupling optical system being disposed to focus the beam from said laser
~~pumping source~~ diode array for outputting a beam into the inner cladding of said double cladding
laser fiber; and wherein,
the cross-sectional shape of said inner cladding is ~~an~~ asymmetric and symmetry-
broken polygon that ~~destabilize~~ destabilizes local modes of light beams within said inner
cladding.

3. (original) An apparatus of claim 2, wherein at least one boundary of the boundaries forming said polygon shape is an arc.

4. (original) An apparatus of claim 2, wherein said ~~the~~ symmetry-broken cladding is a symmetry-broken rectangular cladding.

B' 5. (original) An apparatus of claim 2, wherein the cross-sectional shape of said inner cladding is a multiple-imaging cladding.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus of claim 65, wherein said ~~moldable~~ multiple-imaging cladding is a rectangular-like multiple-imaging cladding.

7. (currently amended) An apparatus of claim 2, wherein said article for gain ~~amplification~~ applications is a fiber laser by further including reflector means disposed at both ends of said double cladding fiber.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus of claim 2, wherein said article for gain ~~amplification~~ application is an optical amplifier by further including means coupling signals into the core of the said double cladding fiber.